

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE VIRTUAL AMSAT SA SPACE SYMPOSIUM GOES AHEAD ON 10 SEPTEMBER

A DIGITAL AND CW CONTEST THIS COMING WEEKEND

and

WRC23 PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES ARE INTENSIFYING

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

AMSAT SPACE SYMPOSIUM GOES AHEAD ON 10 SEPTEMBER BUT ONLY ON THE BLUEJEANS PLATFORM

The annual AMSAT SA Space symposium will go ahead on Saturday 10 September, but only in a virtual format on the BlueJeans platform. The in-person event was cancelled due to the very low uptake of registrations. The few persons who paid for the in-person conference will be refunded in the next few days. The virtual symposium is free of charge, but participants have a choice of making a voluntary contribution of R40 to the AfriCUBE fund.

AMSATSA's main objective is to promote interest in space communication. The programme will be as published except that it will start 30 minutes later at 09:30 CAT, with half an hour for a lunch break instead of a full hour.

Tom van den Bon ZR6TG will make two presentations, taking delegates to a new level of technology. His first presentation is entitled "A Networked Oscar 100 DATV Receiver" and is about building and configuring a DATV receiver that is accessible from anywhere on your network. His second presentation later in the morning is entitled "Satellite Server: Browser Based Satellite Tracking Software" and is about setting up a browser-based system for satellite pass predictions, TLE managements and rotator/radio control.

Anton Janovsky has built a 70 cm to 10 GHz transponder and will share his experiences. This is an important project to promote activity on 10 GHz and higher as part of a long-term plan to protect amateur radio allocations in the UHF and microwave bands. Do not miss it.

For newcomers and those who have not been active on satellite for some time, Hennie Rheeder, ZS6ALN, will take delegates from scratch to getting on the air on satellites. This will be a very worthwhile presentation as most amateurs have equipment in their shacks that can take them to the world of satellites. There are many other interesting presentations, check out the programme on www.sarl.org.za or www.amsatsa.org.za and make your reservation. There will be an opportunity to win one of two AMSAT SA dual band Yagis. Pay careful attention during the online symposium.

A DIGITAL AND CW CONTEST THIS COMING WEEKEND

The second leg of the Regional FT4 DX Contest is on the air from 15:30 to 17:30 UTC on Saturday 10 September 2022 with the aim of promoting FT4 activity in the African region. QSOs must be two-way point to point and the exchange is an RSQ report and a four-digit Maidenhead grid locator. Submit your log sheets by 21:59 UTC on Thursday 15 September 2022 to info@zs6wr.co.za.

The South African Morse Operators Club is hosting the Spring Sweepstakes from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 10 September to 23:59 UTC on Sunday 11 September 2022 and all stations may operate no more than 24 of the 48 hours. The exchange consists of a serial number starting at 001, precedence of "Q" for Single Operator,

QRP; “A” for Single Operator, Low Power; “B” for Single Operator, High Power; “U” for any Single Operator Unlimited Power Category (High, Low or QRP) or “M” for Multi-operator, High Power or Multi-operator, Low Power; your call sign and a check number which is the last two digits of the year the operator or the station was first licensed. The same Check must be sent throughout the contest. Submit your log sheet by 21:59 UTC on Friday 16 September 2022 by e-mail to samoc.club@gmail.com. Cabrillo-formatted logs are preferred.

JOTA/JOTI AND CQ HOU KOERS 2022

JOTA/JOTI 2022 is taking place from Friday 14 October to Sunday 16 October 2022. On Saturday 15 October, the Voortrekkers will be running their CQ Hou Koers event. Please contact your local Scout Group or Voortrekker Commando and start planning for this event.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

WRC23 PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES ARE INTENSIFYING

The Chair of IARU Region 1 Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee, Barry Lewis G4SJH, reports on the WRC23 preparatory activities.

On the IARU-R1 site, he writes, “As WRC23 gets closer, so the preparatory activities for all the agenda items are increasing in intensity. The most pressing for the amateur community is the 23 cm band radio navigation satellite service (RNSS) coexistence agenda item 9.1b. The IARU engagement is continuing with the studies in the regulatory institutions, as well as amongst the amateur community. As detailed proposals are starting to emerge so the amateur community needs to be ready to defend its interests in this band.

Following the presentations given during the IARU Region 1 interim conference and the Ham Radio 2022 event, the IARU was kindly invited to present the 23 cm band situation to the EME community at the 19th EME conference in Prague. Reactions were mixed. However, the IARU maintains its objective to find a solution that can facilitate all the amateur radio applications active in the band today (including EME operations) even if some compromises will be inevitable. To progress the 23 cm band studies, ITU-R Working Party 4C will meet during the second week of September.”

CONTEST NEWS

The second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest runs from 03:00 to 09:00 UTC on Saturday 17 September and again on Sunday 18 September 2022. The first two hours on Saturday are spent on 6 metres, followed by two hours on 2 metres and the last two hours on 70 cm. On Sunday, the first two hours is on 2 metres, followed by two hours on 6 metres and ending off with two hours on 70 cm. The exchange is an RSQ report and your full six-digit Maidenhead locator. Turn to page 21 of the 2022 SARL Blue Book for all the information.

Five logs were received for the SARL Youth QSO Party on 13 August.

1st Charles, ZU3CEC and Henry, ZU3HC – 38 points

The over 26 category:

1st Chris, ZS6CPA – 32 points

2nd Johan, ZS4DZ – 21 points

3rd Cherrea, ZS6CHE – 20 points

The results after the June and August legs of the Youth QSO Party:

1st Charles, ZU3CEC and Henry, ZU3HC – 38 points

3rd Kiara, ZS1ISS – 20 points

Thirty-six logs were received for the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest held on 27 August.

1st the West Rand ARC – 1 120 points

2nd the Northern Cape ARC – 768 points

3rd the Sandton ARC – 270 points

Individual scores

1st Gerhard, ZS3TG – 173 points

2nd Karen, ZS6MMA – 145 points

3rd Keith, ZS6HI – 130 points

The provisional results of the SARL HF CW contest. Only seven logs were received for the SARL HF CW Contest held on Sunday 28 August. From the logs received it was determined that twenty-seven people took part in the contest.

1st Jan, ZS4JAN – 70 points

2nd Hans, ZS6KR – 60 points

3rd Kobie, ZS6KVZ – 54 points

CLUB NEWS

ZS6STN/p and ZS5HAC/2/p are currently out in the field participating in the SARL National Field Day. If you have not yet added these call signs to your field day logbook, you still have an opportunity, but be quick as the cut-off is 10:00 UTC this morning.

The Sandton ARC held their AGM as a hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting on Saturday 27 August. Congratulations to Marius, ZR6MS who received the chairman's award; Henry, ZS6MC and Johan, ZS6KY who both received exemplary service awards and Richard, ZR6DE who took home first place in the 2022 Annual Fox Hunt competition series. The AGM went smoothly, it was great to hear about the clubs' extensive achievements over the last year. Well done to the Sandton ARC committee and its members.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently 5 sunspots with simple to complex magnetic configurations visible. There is a moderate probability for C-class and a low probability for M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 54. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

9 September – The closing date for Field Day logs
10 September – The Regional FT4 DX contest and the AMSAT SA Space Symposium
10 and 11 September – The SAMOC Spring Sweepstakes
14 September – The SARL 80 m Club Contest
15 September – The closing date for FT4 logs
16 September – The closing date for Sweepstakes logs
17 and 18 September – The SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest
19 September – The closing date for Club contest logs
23 September – The Spring Equinox at 03:03 CAT and the registration for the October RAE closes

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The annual AMSAT SA Space symposium will go ahead on Saturday 10 September, but only in a virtual format on the BlueJeans platform. Tom van den Bon ZR6TG will make two presentations taking delegates to a new level of technology. Anton Janovsky has built a 70 cm to 10 GHz transponder and will share his experiences. For newcomers and those who have not been active on satellite for some time, Hennie Rheeder, ZS6ALN will take delegates from scratch to getting on the air on satellites.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband by Louis ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof-read by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.